Statement

(a) to (d) The power supply position in Delhi is by and large satisfactory. No major power crisis is envisaged due to the minor shortfalls in the coal supplies to the thermal power stations in the Capital. The supply of adequate quantity and quality of coal to various thermal power stations in the country, including those in Delhi, is regularly reviewed by a high level Committee and necessary remedial action is taken by the concerned organisations.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Sir, the Minister's reply seems to be rather optimistic. My information is that Delhi, particularly some of the colonies and outskirts of Delhi, have been passing through periods of power shortages off and on for quite some time due to scarcity of coal. According to my enquiry, coal in yards is adequate for only a few days' consumption. Even the Badarpur Power Plant under the NTPC has been facing big shortage of coal. That apart, coal that is being supplied is of inferior quality necessitating the use of expensive oil for supply. There is enough coal on the pitheds. The shortage has been caused due to non-availability of wagons. Though the Minister appears to be optimistic, he has qualified his statement by saying that no major power crisis is envisaged. This implies that a minor crisis could not be ruled out. But in view of so optimistic a reply from the Minister, I would ask the Minister only one question and that is, has the Minister made a detailed enquiry and has he taken ample precautionary measures so that no major power crisis occurs in Delhi?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Sir, as the hon. Member has asked a question, I want to tell him that coal supply for Delhi has been guaranteed. Because of the agitation in Jharkhand, we have taken advance measures. You know, the power stations in Delhi are surviving because of the availability of coal. Raj Ghat and the other power stations have got coal supply. We have taken an advance action. We had a talk with the Railway Ministry and they assured us that they would provide the wagons so that we can get the supply. We have talked to the Home Ministry also. They have also given a guarantee to provide all the facilities that are needed. I may inform the hon. Member that there will be no shortage of coal in Delhi. Previously, our supply was from the North Karanpura, Bihar and Jharkhand. Now we have taken an advance action and we shall get coal supply from northern coal-fields of Singrauli near that area. Delhi is even connected with HVDC. We are getting power. We can get power direct from Singrauli to Delhi. We have now synchronised a gas-based power station at Badarpur. Therefor, there will be no shortage of power in Delhi and we do not expect and envisage any crisis in Delhi in the near future.

Participation of ITDC in International Tourism Borse, Berlin

*445. SHRI N.E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry and ITDC were participants in ITB, Berlin held in March, 1992;

(b) if so, how many executives of ITDC and his Ministry attended the above said get-to-gether, giving the details of their designation and areas of specilisation;

(c) whether any budget was sanctioned by Government in this regard; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the executives of ITDC were selected just on a pick and choose basis rather than on their actual utility and merits; and

(e) if answer to part (d) above be in the negative, how does Government justify their selection?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following officials from the Ministry of Tourism and ITDC attended the Fair:—

1. Director General, Ministry of Tourism
2. Vice president (Marketing), I.T.D.C.
3. Vice President (Ashok Travel & Tours), I.T.D.C.
4. Sr. Manager (Advertising, Publicity and P.R.) I.T.D.C.
5. Manager (presently looking after Tourism Adventure and Camp Tourism), I.T.D.C.

(c) Yes, Sir. The expenditure was incurred from the approved travel budget allocated for the Ministry of Tourism and I.T.D.C.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The Director General Tourism was the Leader of Indian contingent at the I.T.B. which is the largest Tourism Meet in the world. The Indian participants comprised leading hoteliers and representatives of travel trade both in the Government and private sector. The officials of I.T.D.C. were selected keeping in view their expertise in the areas of marketing, hotel sales and travel trade.

SHRI N.E. BALARAM: The hon. Minister has said that in the said tourism meet, representatives of hotels and travel trade participated. According to the answer given by the Minister, it has been stated that it was the largest meet in the world. We have been participating in such fairs for the last so many years. I would like to know what is the impact of our participation in such meets. You have already sent a big team consisting of five people. I am told that each country has got only one desk and they do not have much business there. But our Government has already sent a delegation consisting of five people. We have got only one desk there. No. business is done there. That is what I am asking. What is the benefit of such a big delegation to such a meet?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, I think, something is wrong with the sound system. I am finding it very difficult to follow what the hon. Member is asking. But I take it that he is asking about the business generated by this delegation. The total money that the ITDC spent on sending this delegation is approximately a little over Rs. 4 lakhs and this is one of the largest tourism meets in the world. It is very essential. The ITDC is a commercial type of organisation which has to generate business and I think it is important that it attends these major tourism meets. In this particular meet, the ITDC spent a little over Rs. 4 lakhs and they have secured firm business of approximately Rs. 96 lakhs.

Negotiations are on for another Rs. 6.26 crores of business.

SHRI N.E. BALARAM: How much money you have spent for this?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The foreign exchange spent by the Ministry was DM 96869 and DM 1.45 lakhs.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Sir, tourism is one of the areas from where we can get much foreign exchange with little investment. In spite of the vast coastline and other natural resources in this country precious little has been done to expend this sector to get foreign exchange under tourism. Were there any negotiations at the ITB meeting held in Berlin to have any joint venture in this sector?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, as far as foreign exchange earning is concerned, from the month of July onwards certain steps have been taken to accelerate the number of visitors to India and tourism has picked up in the months of October-November. In fact, I am happy to inform that house that the month of December saw 2,03,000 tourists visiting India. This is the largest ever for any month of the year. Foreign exchange earnings have also gone up from Rs. 2,400 crores—I am speaking from memory now—last year to an estimated Rs. 3,200 crores year ending 31st March, 1992. There is an increase of about..*(Interruptions)*..

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: It is only due to the depreciation of the rupee and not by actual earning.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: What?

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: It is due to the devaluation of the rupee.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: No, that is not the case, Sir. The rupee has been depreciated by about 20% to 25% and the foreign exchange earnings have gone up by almost 35%. I would say that certainly this has helped because it has made India a cheaper destination. But there have also been certain results because of the steps taken by the Tourism Ministry. So, I would like to say in relation to the civil aviation aspects that we have greatly liberalised air charters where it used to take sometimes almost six months for the sanctioning of an air charter. Now, we have put it under the DGCA and it takes only 24 hours. As a result, out of 2,03,000 tourists who came in December as many as 32,000 came by chartered flights. We had approximately 150 charter flights during the last three or four months whereas in the whole year normally we have only 125. We are expecting about 500 in the coming financial year. Now, all this is exerting its influence on foreign exchange earnings by the number of business coming in. So, it is not just happening by itself. To a large extent the credit goes to the Finance Minister because he has made India a cheaper destination. It is more attractive to the people. But there have some little inputs from the Tourism Ministry and Civil Aviation Ministry also.

Gas Linkage for Urban Power Station

*446. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA†:
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that gas linkage for Utran/GEB 135 MW capacity has been sanctioned;

(b) whether it is also a fact that power is ready to go on streams but for non-availability of gas; and

(c) if so, what is being done to put Utran to go on stream?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chimanbhai Mehta.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two gas turbine units of 33 MW each are awaiting supply of gas on receipt of which they can be commissioned. The third gas turbine unit of 33 MW will be completed only during the year 1992-93.

(c) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas have been requested to make arrangements for supply of gas to utran from all alternative source near Utran.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, the Minister has admitted that gas was committed to Utran gas-based power house, turbines are also ready and it will be commissioned at any moment when the gas is available. Now, the gas was also co[illegible]ed. They did not do it in the air. Long since the power house was ready GEB has been presenting the case. The nodal Ministry is the Power Ministry. Between the Petroleum Ministry and the Energy Ministry, they have to sort it out. Why when the Petroleum Ministry have committed to supply the gas, the gas is not supplied to the turbines? The answer is that there is a shortage of gas. It is not a fact. They are diverting the gas for some other purposes, to some other parties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: My question is whether he has talked with the Petroleum Ministry. They must give the committed gas to these turbines. Gujarat is suffering loss. It was commited. How long will you take for implementing it?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Utran Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Power Project of 135 megawatt was sanctioned by the Planning Commission in March, 1990 for implementation is the State sector by Gujarat Electricity Board. The first gas turbine unit of, 33 MW is now likely to be synchronised. The techno-economic clearance is given when availability of gas is guranteed. Sir, gas is to be made